

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Title of the Invention from "Novel DNA-based vaccine against the encephalitis alphaviruses" to --A Strain of the Western Equine Encephalitis Virus--.

On page 1, between lines 1 and 3, insert the following paragraph.

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a non-provisional application of provisional application 60/256,948 filed on December 21, 2000.--

On page 15, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following paragraph.

--Automated sequencing of the 26S region was performed using the ABI Prism Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing or Big-Dye.TM. Terminator Cycle Sequencing kits of plasmid templates according to the manufacturer's instructions (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, Calif.). Sequencing reactions were purified on Centri-Sep.TM. columns (Princeton Separations, Adelphia, N.J.), dried and analyzed on an ABI 373 or 310 automated sequencer. For the nonstructural region, template cDNAs were generated in a single-step integrated RT-PCR procedure using the Titan.TM. RT-PCR kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Laval, PQ), following the manufacturer's suggested protocols. RT-PCR products were purified using the QIAquick.TM. PCR Purification kit (Qiagen, Chatsworth, Calif.) and sequenced (50-100 ng DNA per reaction). The extreme 5' end of the genome was not sequenced in WEE 71V-1658. However, a 5' RACE reaction (Frohman et al., 1988) was used to obtain a cDNA fragment from the 5' terminus of WEE strain CBA87. Briefly, primer WEE559 (GGTAGATTGATGTCGGTGCATGG--SEQ ID NO. 8) was used to prime reverse transcription of the 5' terminus of the viral RNA. After poly(A) tailing of the cDNA with terminal transferase, a plus sense primer (GTACTTGACTGACTGTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT--SEQ ID NO. 9) was used in conjunction with WEE559 for amplification of the 5' terminus.

On page 28, please insert the following paragraph below Table 1.

--The nucleotide sequences disclosed in Table 1 from top to bottom are represented in the Sequence Listing as SEQ ID NOs. 10-49, respectively.--

Please replace the Sequence Listing of record pages 1-45 with the attached substitute Sequence Listing consisting of pages 1-49.